

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,691,770 issued to Keesman, et al. ("Keesman"). The Examiner also rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keesman in view of United States Patent 6,414,992 B1 issued to Sriram, et al. ("Sriram"). Further, the Examiner objected to claims 2-8 and 10-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims 1 and 9.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 13 and 15. Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 9. Applicants have not added any claims. Accordingly, claims 2-8 and 10-16 will be pending in the application after entry of this Amendment.

I. Allowable Claims 2-8 and 10-16

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-8 and 10-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claims 1 and 9. The Examiner stated that claims 2-8 and 10-16 were otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the allowance. Therefore, Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 in independent form.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of allowable dependent claims 2-8 and 10-16.

II. Amended Claims 2, 7, 10 and 15

Applicants have noted that the word "underflow" has been consistently misspelled as "undererflow" in claims 2, 7, 10 and 15. Therefore, Applicants have amended claims 2, 7, 10 and 15 to correct this spelling mistake.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the pending claims, namely claims 2-8 and 10-16, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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